

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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CONYERS INTRODUCES ENHANCED BORDER SECURITY ACT OF 2001

Today Congressman John Conyers Jr., joined colleagues from the Senate and House to introduce the Enhanced Border Security Act of 2001.

Congressman Conyers issued the following statement in regards to the legislation:

“This legislation will strengthen the security of our borders and enhance our ability to deter potential terrorists. However, while balancing the needs of law enforcement, we have been vigilant in protecting the civil rights upon which this nation depends.

The bill strengthens the ability of the INS, State Department and other law enforcement agencies to identify potential terrorists. At the same time, the bill protects the ability of the more than 31 million foreign nationals who enter the United States legally each year to continue to conduct business, go on vacation, and attend schools here.

As my district in Michigan shares a border with Canada, I am particularly concerned that any legislation not unreasonably limit the ability of businesses on both sides of the border to operate or prevent family members from visiting each other.

In addition, the bill increases the resources, training and technology available to our border personnel. It requires that studies be undertaken and additional information concerning students and other visitors be collected to develop a better screening and entry-exit system. The bill also requires the State Department to obtain necessary clearances before issuing visas to persons from countries that sponsor terrorism.

Most importantly, the bill does not lock down our country as some would have us do. We have refused to impose unrealistic mandates or prohibitions on immigration that would damage our rich tradition as a nation of immigrants, without achieving our goal of increasing security in America.”